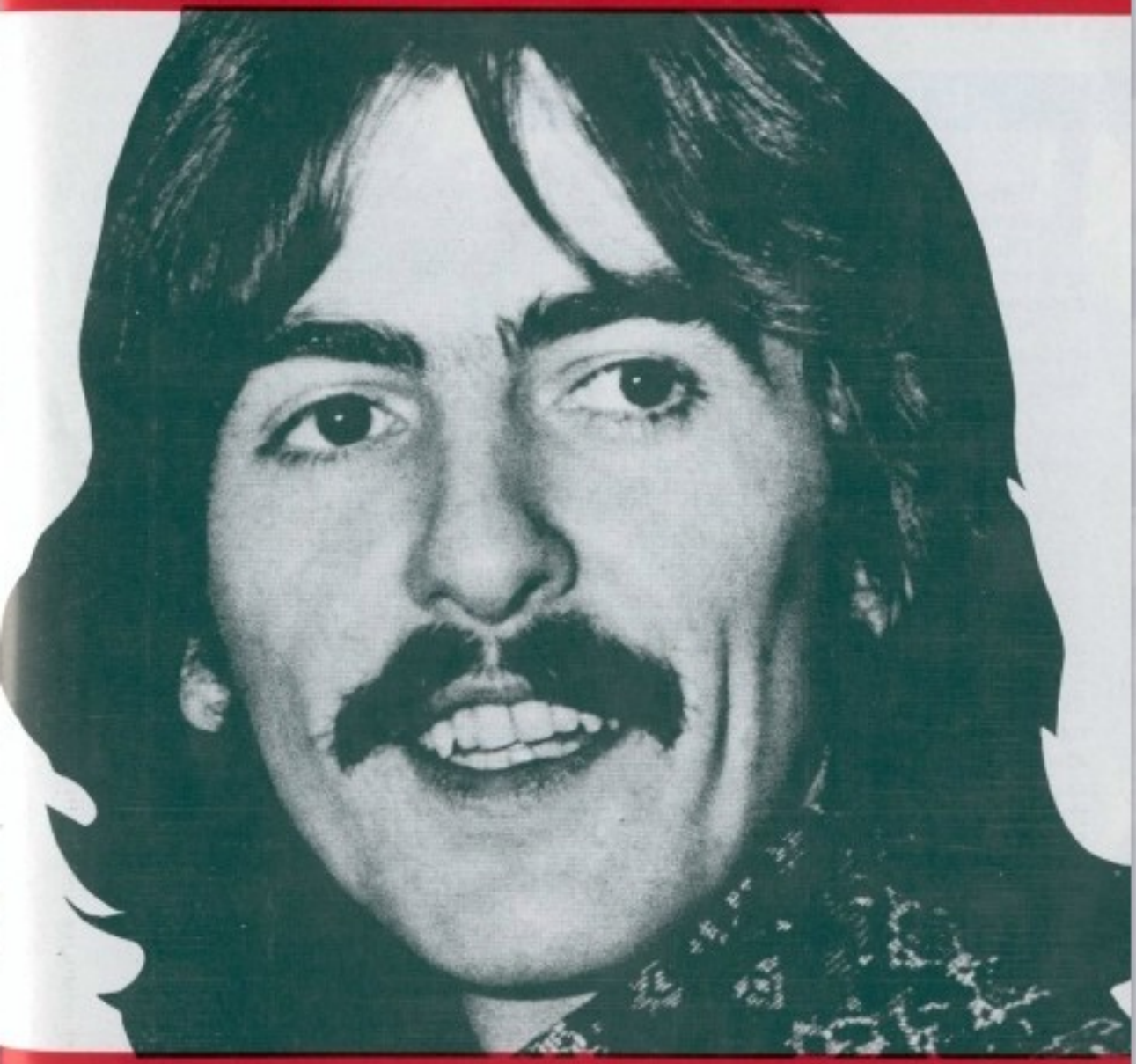
The Beatles MONTHLY BOOK

FEBRUARY No. 55



EVERY MONTH

Price TWO SHILLINGS

The Beatles Book

The Beatles' Own Monthly Magazine

No. 55, FEBRUARY 1968

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Editor: **JOHNNY DEAN**

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EDITORIAL

Hi!

Perhaps you have to be a Beatles' addict to appreciate everything the boys do, but all the attacks on their "Magical Mystery Tour" seem to go right over the top.

The really silly thing was the way EVERYTHING about the show was torn to pieces. And yet only a couple of weeks later the "MMT" EP shot to the top of the charts with sales zooming up towards the million mark in this country alone.

No one is trying to say that the Beatles' very first production was a complete masterpiece —considering that the boys did everything themselves it would have been amazing if it had been—but as the EP sales have shown, it wasn't ALL bad either.

We've had loads of letters about the television show and I am very happy to say that 99% of you said that you disagreed with the critics. The Letters Page this month features your comments on the television show.

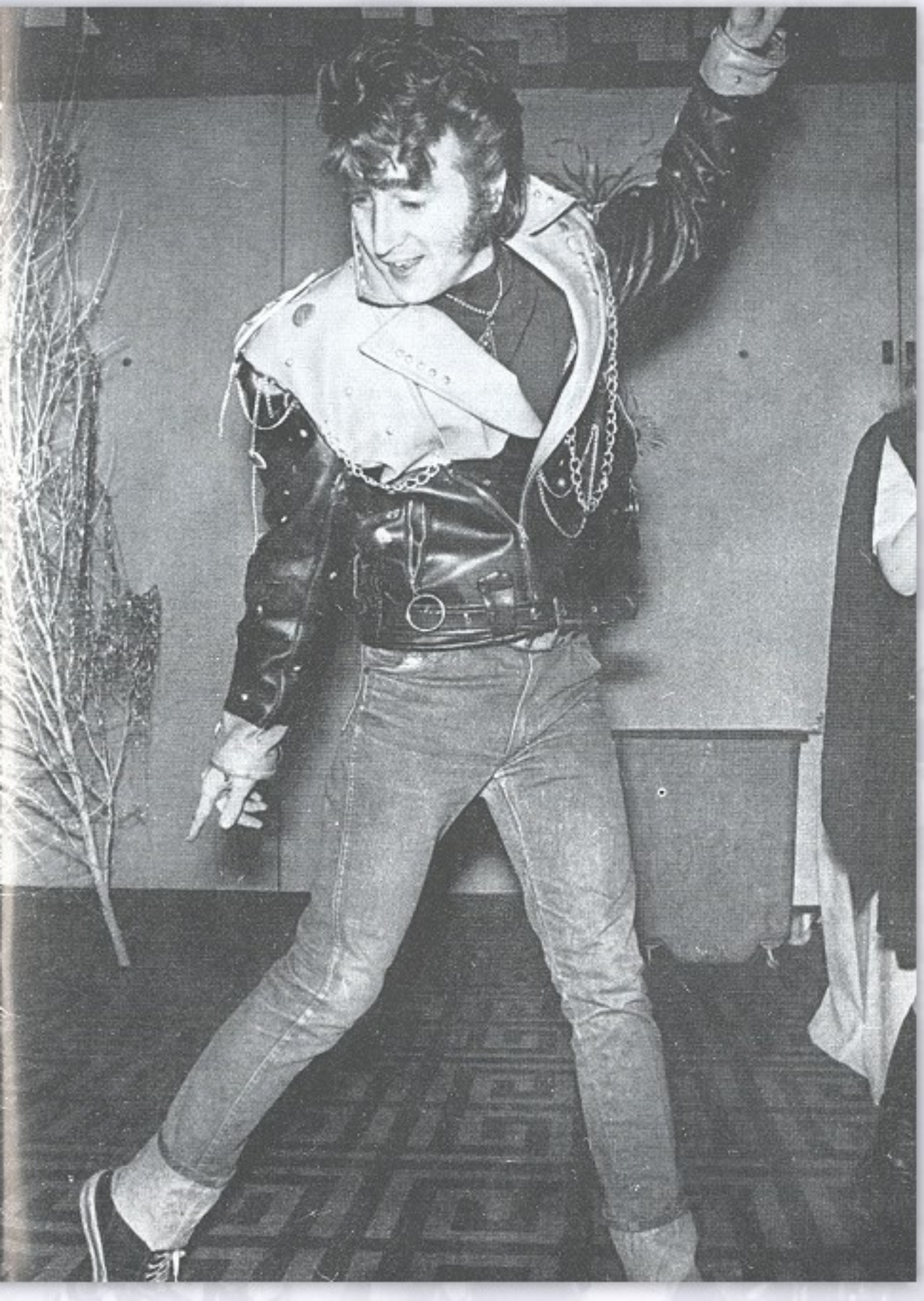
The Beatles do have one big problem to overcome every time they do anything new. It's got to be good—in fact, not just good, but bloomin' marvellous! Otherwise everyone feels let down. The odd thing is, I believe the critics have done the boys a big favour by knocking "MMT" so hard—they have given them something to fight for. If you get praised for everything you do over a five-year period there doesn't seem to be much point in trying harder. But now I believe the Beatles will work harder than ever before to make sure that their next show, is a real humdinger.

I want you to enter for a lucky dip we are running. All you have to do is decide what you like to read most in your Beatles Book, list it on a postcard and send it in to us to give yourselves a chance to win a new personally autographed photograph of the Beatles. And you'll also help me to decide what to put in future issues.

One of the most extraordinary things about the Beatles is their complete lack of jealousy. It has never mattered to John or Paul who wrote what for any particular song, they have all been published under their joint names. So, although Paul has written the little song "Come Inside Luv" for Cilla Black's first TV series it's still published under Lennon McCartney.

Johnny Dean Editor.

John dressed up as a rocker for the Fancy Dress party the boys gave for everyone who worked on the Magical Mystery Tour.



National Secretary
FREDA KELLY

New Postal Address:

**THE OFFICIAL
BEATLES FAN CLUB
P.O. BOX No. 12
LIVERPOOL 1**

Club Telephone Number:
051. 709 2410

*****FOR IMMEDIATE MEMBERSHIP just send your first year's subscription (POSTAL ORDER FOR FIVE SHILLINGS) plus a STAMPED, SELF-ADDRESSED ENVELOPE (size no smaller than 9" × 4") to Freda Kelly at the new address above.**

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

DEAR BEATLE PEOPLE,

Within the next few weeks *The Beatles Monthly Book* (including our Special Fan Club Newsletter section) goes International! If you have relatives or Pen Pals living in or visiting AMERICA please tell them the exciting news that *The Beatles Monthly Book* is to begin appearing as a SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT inside the American magazine TEEN DATEBOOK. U.S. Fan Club Branch Director FRAN FIORINO who is based in New York will be editing the U.S. version of our Newsletter, using items you see on this page and adding her own 'local' items of Club News each month. TEEN DATEBOOK starts publishing monthly Beatle Supplements from its April 1968 issue (on sale throughout America from the beginning of March). The effect of this will be that MORE THAN A MILLION AMERICAN BEATLE PEOPLE will be added to our regular readership—so make sure YOUR pen pal in the States is amongst the first to know this good news!

BEATLE BITS: At London's EMI and De Lane Lea recording studios where **GEORGE** has been supervising the recording of his self-composed soundtrack music for the film **"Wonderwall"**, drop-in-and-chat visitors have included Monkee **PETER TORK** with week old beard plus **CREAM'S ERIC CLAPTON. . . . RINGO'S** dad asks me to pass on his thanks to the many Beatle People who sent Get Well cards while he was in hospital . . . Christmas gift from **GEORGE** to his parents—a new car . . . **PAUL** and **JANE** visited Paul's family on Merseyside at New Year, **RINGO** and **MAUREEN** travelled North to see their parents just after New Year, **JOHN** and **CYN** joined their close friend actor **VICTOR SPINETTI** for a brief 6-day holiday trip to North Africa—Casablanca in Morocco to be precise. Meanwhile "Wonderwall" recording sessions kept **GEORGE** and **PATTIE** at home in Esher but George's parents were their guests over the holiday . . . Gift from **JOHN** to **CYN**—a puppy named Bernard . . . **NEIL ASPINALL** appointed Director of Apple Corps, the core of all the fast-growing group of Beatle-backed Apple companies. General Manager of Apple Corps is **ALISTAIR TAYLOR** whose association with NEMS dates back to the pre-"Love Me Do" days when he worked for Brian in the Liverpool record stores . . . Press confusion was created over who controls the Apple shop in Baker-street because only **JOHN** and **GEORGE** could be at the big opening ceremony. **RINGO** was in Rome, **PAUL** was at his farm in Scotland. In fact all four **BEATLES** own and operate the Apple business and **PATTIE'S** sister **JENNY** is a sales assistant at the shop. Incidentally, in answer to queries from out-of-town Beatle People who are planning

to visit London, the Apple shop is open Tuesdays to Saturdays inclusive each week.

FAN CLUB NOTES: Congratulations to Staffordshire Area Secretary **DAWN JACKSON** on the publication of her letter about "Magical Mystery Tour" in the *New Musical Express* . . . I'd like to hear from Members **HOWARD PLATZMAN, I. J. PURDAM** (Barrow-in-Furness), **BERYL SHAW, EILEEN COSTELLOE, JENNIFER BEST** and **SUSAN LESTER.** Please drop me a letter or postcard to confirm your correct home addresses . . . Buckinghamshire Area Secretary **CAROL SAUNDERS** not related to the Editor of America's **TEEN DATEBOOK** magazine although she shares the same name!

Tarrah for now

Freda Kelly

FREDA KELLY

National Secretary of The Official Beatles Fan Club

DON'T FORGET!!!

THE FAN CLUB HAS MOVED TO LIVERPOOL!

So please remember to put the *NEW* address at the top of page 4 on any letters or cards you send to Freda Kelly. There's also a *NEW* telephone number for phone queries at the top of page 4.

BEATLES HAVE A BALL IN FANCY DRESS

A couple of hundred invitations went out a few days beforehand. They didn't give much away. Just that something to do with "Magical Mystery Tour" was due to happen on the evening of Thursday December 21 in the Westbourne Suite of the Royal Lancaster Hotel, the plushy new place opened just recently by the Rank Organisation on Bayswater-road, London W.2. Not too far from the H.Q. of *The Beatles Monthly Book*, in fact. "Fancy Dress" said the cards.

ENTIRE CAST

It turned out to be the biggest-ever Beatle Party, a shindig to be remembered. The Beatles invited the entire cast of "Magical Mystery Tour", all the "backroom boys" who had worked the lights and the cameras for them, the staff of NEMS, the staff of Apple plus a few carefully selected buddies, pals and mates. Not to mention relatives. People began to arrive soon after half past seven.

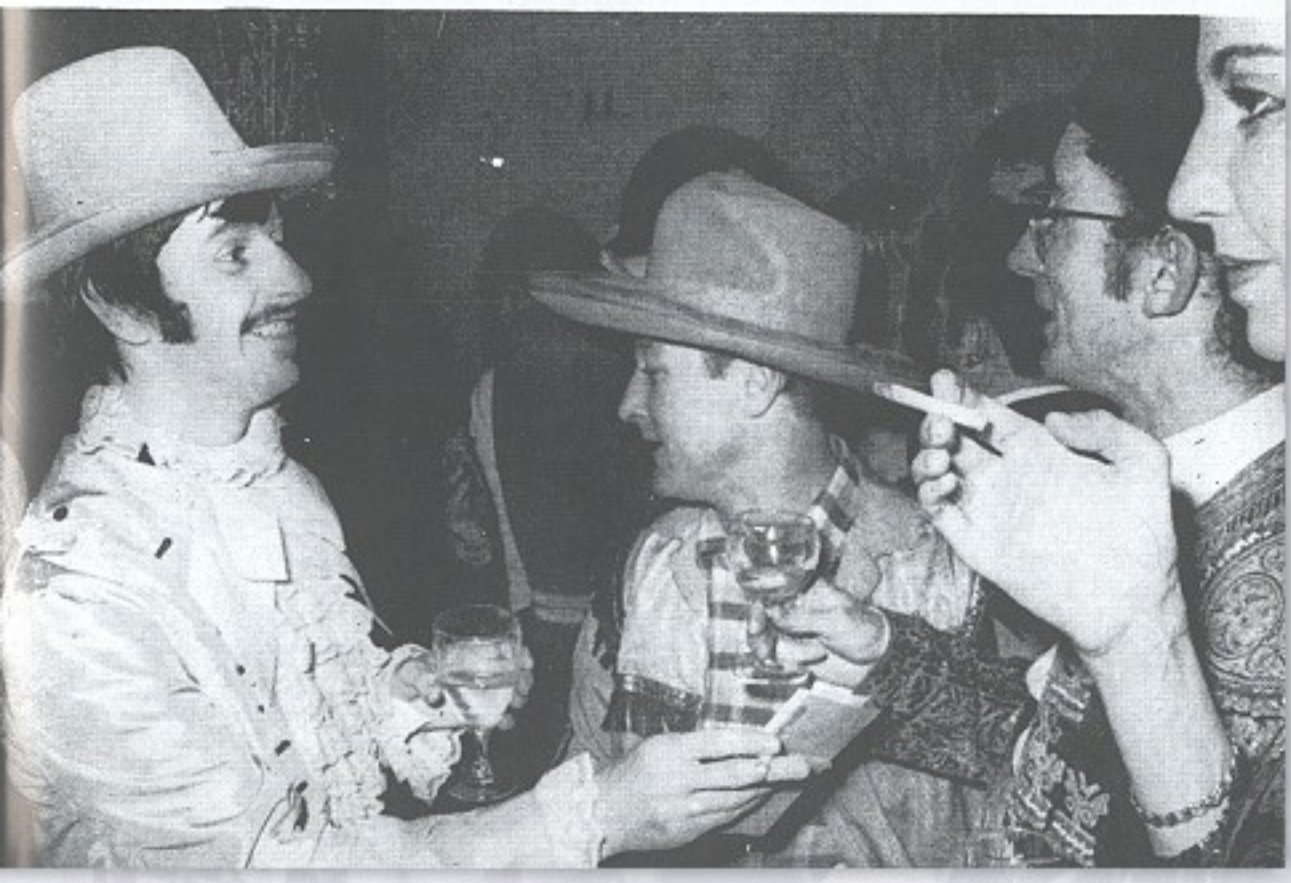
Even before things got under way guests were greeted by decorations which were, in themselves, breathtaking. Imitation trees with scores of colourful balloons "blossoming" from their branches were "planted" all round the enormous room. Clever lighting helped to make everything look even more splendid.

Then, while people picked up their first drinks, there was the fun of finding out who had dressed up as what. There were cowboys galore, a heavily bearded Mystic, some lovely Eastern beauties, Cilla Black dressed as Charlie Chaplin and her boyfriend (Bobby Willis) looking very much like a nun. There was little Lulu dressed as a Little Girl with a wig styled in cute ringlets (looking very much like the wig she wore on the final "Juke Box Jury" programme on telly the following Wednesday!).

EVERYONE DRESSED UP

PAUL AND JANE FANCIED THE ROLES OF PEARLY KING AND QUEEN. RINGO CAME AS A REGENCY BUCK BUT SOME OF THE NEWSPAPERS DECIDED TO DESCRIBE HIS OUTFIT AS A "RINGMASTER'S COSTUME". MAUREEN WAS A TINY RED INDIAN PRINCESS WEARING HEAP SHORT MINI-SKIRT! JOHN LOOKED LIKE ONE OF HIS OWN EARLY PHOTOGRAPHS—REMEMBER THE LEATHERY PICTURES OF HIM TAKEN SEVEN YEARS AGO IN HAMBURG AND AT THE CAVERN? HE CURLED HIS HAIR INTO A BIT OF A WAVE ABOVE THE FOREHEAD AND LOOKED LIKE EARLY-VINTAGE ROCKER LENNON! CYNTHIA LOOKED MARVELLOUS (AS ALWAYS) IN A FULL AND FLOWING LILAC DRESS AND BIG FEATHERED HAT. I'M NO GOOD AT PLACING PERIOD COSTUME AND TWO DIFFERENT "EXPERTS" CLAIM SHE WAS FROM THE VICTORIAN AND EDWARDIAN ERAS. ANYWAY SHE LOOKED MARVELLOUS! GEORGE AND PATTIE ARRIVED A BIT LATE—BY WHICH TIME THE NEWSPAPERS HAD TAKEN THEIR ARRIVAL-TYPE PHOTOGRAPHS AND GONE TO PRESS. SO A COUPLE OF REPORTS SAID THE HARRISONS WERE

TOP RIGHT: Ringo, Maureen, Peter Asher, Paul and Jane Asher arriving at the Royal Lancaster Hotel for the party on December 21st.
BOTTOM RIGHT: Regency Buck Ringo greets Apple General Manager Alistair Tavlor.



MISSING. NOT SO! GEORGE LOOKED ELEGANTLY HEROIC IN A SORT OF ERROL FLYNN OUTFIT, COMPLETE WITH CAVALIER'S TIGHTS AND GLEAMING SWORD. PATTIE LOOKED PERFECT DRESSED AS AN EASTERN PRINCESS.

Shortly before nine everbody was invited to take seats for dinner. What a splendid feast THAT proved to be—full-scale Christmas Dinner with turkey and Christmas pud!

After the eating came the entertainment. Certainly no shortage of THAT! Music For Dancing was provided by The Chasers, The Symbols and The Dave Bartram Quintet. Music For Eating had been supplied by a small Palm Court Orchestra!

A special surprise came when The Bonzo Dog Doo Dah Band took to the stage to begin one of their hilarious sessions. A second surprise (for The Bonzo Band as well as the guests!) came when various unbilled performers joined in the musical entertainment! These included Mr. Freddie Lennon, John's father, who was (and probably still is) staying with him out at Weybridge. And there were Beach Boys Mike and Bruce who had just flown in from Paris to become very welcome last-minute guests.

FAMOUS FATHER XMAS

Any good Magical Mystery Party should have a Father Christmas. The Father Christmas who dished out bars of chocolate and similar goodies at this particular function looked suspiciously like Robert Morley. Indeed as soon as he began to speak we realised that it WAS Robert Morley.

The most unusual part of the night's music came a little later on— after we'd all watched the "Magical Mystery Tour" film in colour on a large screen. A folk group called The McPeake Family was announced. There was quite a little story behind their appearance at the party. Apparently John and Paul had seen The McPeake Family on telly a few weeks earlier and been extremely impressed. John was so keen on the group's "fairy music" that he wanted one of their pipes. So Alistair Taylor, General Manager of the Apple organisation, traced the Family in the North of England where they were preparing to head home to Belfast. Instead they postponed their return trip and came to London.

Their delicate playing and full-of-feeling singing impressed everybody at the party. When they'd finished Paul and Jane spent ages chatting to the Family—to father (Francis), son (also Francis) and daughter (Kathleen). Now and again the Family's 84-year-old grandfather travels and performs with them but he had not accompanied them to London. The McPeake Family have performed all over the place—from Russia to America—winning something like 16 awards at top international music festivals. I wouldn't be surprised if we hear more of them. Certainly we shall if The Beatles have their way!

MERRYMAKERS

By now it was well after midnight and the party took on a definite discotheque atmosphere. People started to get their second wind, so to speak. The beat grew bolder, the singing sounded soulier and the floor filled up with two hundred curiously costumed merrymakers fully prepared to make a night of it!

The hosts of the Magical Mystery Party stayed right until the end. Amongst the very last to leave were Paul and Jane plus Ringo and Maureen. A thousand Christmas greetings must have been exchanged across that crowded room in the last half hour—to the accompaniment of clinking glasses and bursting balloons.

A terrific success! A truly enjoyable party! A friendly thought on the part of The Beatles to gather together so many mates and business associates for such a fine Christmas celebration! It was thoroughly appreciated.

And talking of appreciation I must add a few words of special thanks to a party guest who combined work with his pleasure that night at the Royal Lancaster. I'm thinking of photographer John Kelly who took the party pictures you can see in this issue and gave us all some great souvenirs with which to recall a very pleasant occasion.

FREDERICK JAMES

RIGHT: Paul and Jane made a delightful Cockney Pearly King and Queen.

RINGO IN ROME

"Candy" filming report from Italy by Mal Evans

Part 2

Last month I told you about our first few comparatively free pre-filming days in Rome when Ringo, Maureen and yours truly found time to do the tourist thing and take in some of the city's sights.

I finished up by recalling how Ringo was tempted (against his will!) to try a speciality dish known as Fettucini at Alfredo's, one of Rome's most famous restaurants. To his great surprise he thoroughly enjoyed it! Alfredo himself came over to our table. A burly, friendly big bloke with a curly moustache. "Can we take a picture?" he asked. Ringo agreed and one of the waiters brought a camera, which wouldn't work, but did after a bit of gentle cursing and not-so gentle manipulation!

The sequel was that Ringo and Mo decided they'd like a souvenir copy of the photograph. "Delighted" promised Alfredo. The photo arrived at our hotel a few days later WITH A BILL FOR £2!!! No wonder Alfredo's can afford to let their V.I.P. patrons eat with golden cutlery!

Filming for Ringo actually started on Thursday December 7— the day The Beatles' Apple shop opened some thousands of miles away in London.

Up at six thirty and down to the studio bang on seven thirty which amazed Ringo if it didn't amaze anybody else! Maureen came too, of course. We were all introduced to Richard Burton in the next dressing room and Sugar Ray Robinson was there too. Richard's part in "Candy" is as a poet with Sugar Ray as his driver. We had a bit of genuine poetic delivery from Richard in the dressing room when he recited the words of "The Fool On The Hill" in Shakespeare fashion!

An hour or so later we all trooped off to the day's location—a house just down the road from Incom Film Studios. Ringo was a bit brought down about his costume. Being cast in the role of Emmanuel, a Mexican gardener, he'd expected a fine, colourful Mexican outfit. Instead he found Emmanuel was an Americanised Mexican gardener who was to wear jeans, boots and old sports jacket and a tatty trilby hat.

FIRST SCENE

That day we shot the first "Candy" scene to involve Ringo. He had to start cutting the hedge with a pair of shears. Later in the scene Candy herself (Ewa Aulin) arrived with McPhisto (Richard) and Zero (Sugar Ray). We got quite a bit of filming done and then Ringo invited Richard and his wife Elizabeth (Taylor) to lunch with us.

Afterwards Ringo spent most of the afternoon rehearsing his lines with Ewa for the next scene.

Here's what I wrote in my diary for the following day (Friday December 8):- "On standby today. Pleasant surprise when Elizabeth telephoned me about eleven to see if we could all join her and Richard for lunch. I wasn't sure whether Ringo might be needed on set at a moment's notice so I had to say I'd ring her back. All was O.K. and we made lunch—in our hotel (The Grand). Richard's brother Ivor (with his wife, Gwen) joined us. So did two of the Burton children, Lisa and Maria. Richard kept the whole table entertained and amused with hilarious stories of life in his old Welsh hometown. He's a fabulous storyteller. Ringo did a few press interviews this afternoon. Then we went to the film studio to socialise although Ringo wasn't required for actual shooting. Then early to bed."

BEATLE RECORDS

On Saturday it was cornflakes and tea at seven to be at the studio by eight! We listened to a non-stop programme of Beatles records on the production record player. "We'll get some decent records for them later" joked Ringo! Despite the early call, Ringo wasn't wanted in front of the cameras before lunch so he filled in the rest of the morning giving a couple more press interviews. One reporter was amused when Ringo had to show him how to work his tape recorder before the interview could get under way!

This was the day Marlon Brando showed up for the first time. We met him over lunch and got to know him. Sugar Ray was with us and the conversation was really lively. I jotted in my diary one of Sugar Ray's remarks that I found particularly funny. "I'm no coward" he said "but I'm willing to say I'm sorry if I'm wrong!"

At last we got around to the day's work—a scene involving Ringo, Richard and Ewa, an interior shot set in the base-

ment of Candy Christian's house.

At seven on Saturday evening filming finished for the weekend and, at the invitation of the Burtons, we were to spend a day and a couple of nights on their yacht. It was moored at a place called Anzio, a 90-minute drive from Rome. We did the journey in style with a pair of gleaming Rolls Royce cars between us.

Ringo and Maureen took Richard in their Rolls. I travelled with Elizabeth in the Burton's equally magnificent white Rolls.

A very, very comfortable yacht! During dinner Marlon arrived to join the weekend party. We played "Sgt. Pepper" and "The Fool On The Hill" all evening and, just before bed, we went for a walk with the Burtons and their three dogs.

LAZY DAY

Sunday was a nice lazy day. Most of the time we sat around on the boat or took off for short walks. I got into deep conversation with Marlon and we went out to explore the rest of the jetty together. In the evening everyone played cards. It was a pleasant break and the company could not have been better.

Monday morning. Back to work. Six thirty—breakfast of half an apple and a glass of water. Seven thirty—at the studio. Maureen stayed behind on the yacht with Elizabeth. It was a pretty chilly day.

From the filming point of view it was another wasted morning. We kept getting these early calls and urgent messages telling us to be sure and arrive on time—and then there was seldom anything for Ringo to do but sit around the location all made up and wearing his Emmanuel gear! Still, that's the glittering world of movie-making, folks!

So Ringo snatched an extra hour's sleep in his dressing room before lunch and in the afternoon we continued the indoor basement scene.

Tuesday was much the same except that as each day went by more and more fans gathered at the hotel and near the studio to see Ringo. As we left the hotel and Ringo was just coming out of the swing doors a boy of about 17 raced over to him and made a wild Rugby tackle aimed at bringing his fave Beatle to the ground for the purposes (I suppose!) of getting an autograph. I had to drag him clear. At this point the boy fainted!

On Tuesday night Ewa, (pronounced 'Eva') Ringo, Maureen and I were invited for dinner to the house of "Candy" director Christian Marquand. His splendid place was buried deep in the countryside outside the city of Rome. We couldn't have found it without an experienced driver who knew the complicated route.

That was the night we heard the tragic news that Otis Redding had been killed in an air crash. What a dreadful thing to happen. We had admired him as a great artist and Ringo had always loved Otis Redding records.

FIRST KISS

Here's my diary entry for the next day:-

"WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 13: RINGO'S FIRST SCREEN KISS! ALL ONLOOKERS CLEARED FROM THE SET FOR THIS SPECIAL SCENE TO BE SHOT. TODAY RINGO FILMED THE BIG LOVE SCENE BETWEEN EMMANUEL AND CANDY. A LONG WORKING DAY WITH RINGO AND EWA IN FRONT OF THE CAMERAS UNTIL EIGHT FIFTEEN THIS EVENING. THEN BACK TO THE HOTEL FOR DINNER WITH RICHARD AND ELIZABETH, PLUS THEIR SONS MICHAEL AND CHRISTOPHER. A BIT SAD TONIGHT BECAUSE THE BURTONS ARE LEAVING, RICHARD HAVING COMPLETED HIS PART IN THE FILM. SO WE WENT TO THEIR ROOM AFTER DINNER FOR CHAMPAGNE AND FAREWELL GIFTS WERE EXCHANGED. RICHARD AND ELIZABETH SIGNED A SPECIAL PHOTOGRAPH FOR ME AND I'M LOOKING AT IT NOW AS I WRITE MY DIARY FOR THE DAY."

RINGO AND SISTER

On Thursday Ringo worked on two scenes—one involving Candy and her father, Mr. Christian, played by John Astin, and one in which Ringo is seen on a motor-bike with actress Marilu-Tolo who plays the part of his sister.

There's a note in my diary for Thursday recalling how Ringo had a bit of a language problem when he used the house phone to try and order tea and toast. The helpful Italians on the other end didn't quite get the message but some nice doughnuts and apple tart arrived and none of us really objected!

For me Friday began with a bit of a shopping spree. I bought toys and other Christmas gifts for my kids—Gary who is now 6 years old and little Julie who is just turned 19 months.

TOP LEFT: Ringo with Marilu-Tolo.
BOTTOM LEFT: Famous ex boxer Sugar Ray Robinson also plays a role in the film.

Later in the morning I went with Ringo to the studio. As usual his make-up session started with a shampoo because the black dye on his hair makes it very greasy and difficult to keep clean. Then we did a big "love-in" scene where Ringo and 80 hippies were filmed in a field! There was a lot of waiting around. Maureen and Ringo played cards for a while but Maureen went back to the hotel early to get some gift-buying done.

LOVELY GIRL

On Friday night we had an airport scene to do where Candy parts company with Ringo and gets on a plane. I hadn't been introduced to the girl who was playing the part of Candy's Aunt Livia. But she was a wonderful looking girl with lovely big brown eyes and I'd been chatting to her a lot at the studio before we left for the airport. It was only when the scene was being shot I learned that Aunt Livia was Elsa Martinelli! Which reminds me —I borrowed a pack of cards from her and I've still got them!

BRANDY & CAROLS

By midnight we were still filming and it was freezing cold. So we all got glasses of brandy and sang carols. Ringo gave out with "Good King Wenceslas" and "Auld Lang Syne" so we all toasted in the New Year. Which was a bit premature since the date was now Saturday December 16!!!

Here's what I put in my diary for the rest of that day, our last in Rome—"Checked our flight booking to London for Sunday morning. Found only ONE instead of THREE seats reserved and corrected this with all speed. Bought Ewa a parting gift—a doll which she decided to call MALKINA!!! Late lunch and off to studio at three thirty. Ringo changed into his Emmanuel gear at the hotel which made a few folk stare. To airport again to complete the Fly-Away-Candy sequence. Full moon over the mountains in a pink sky."

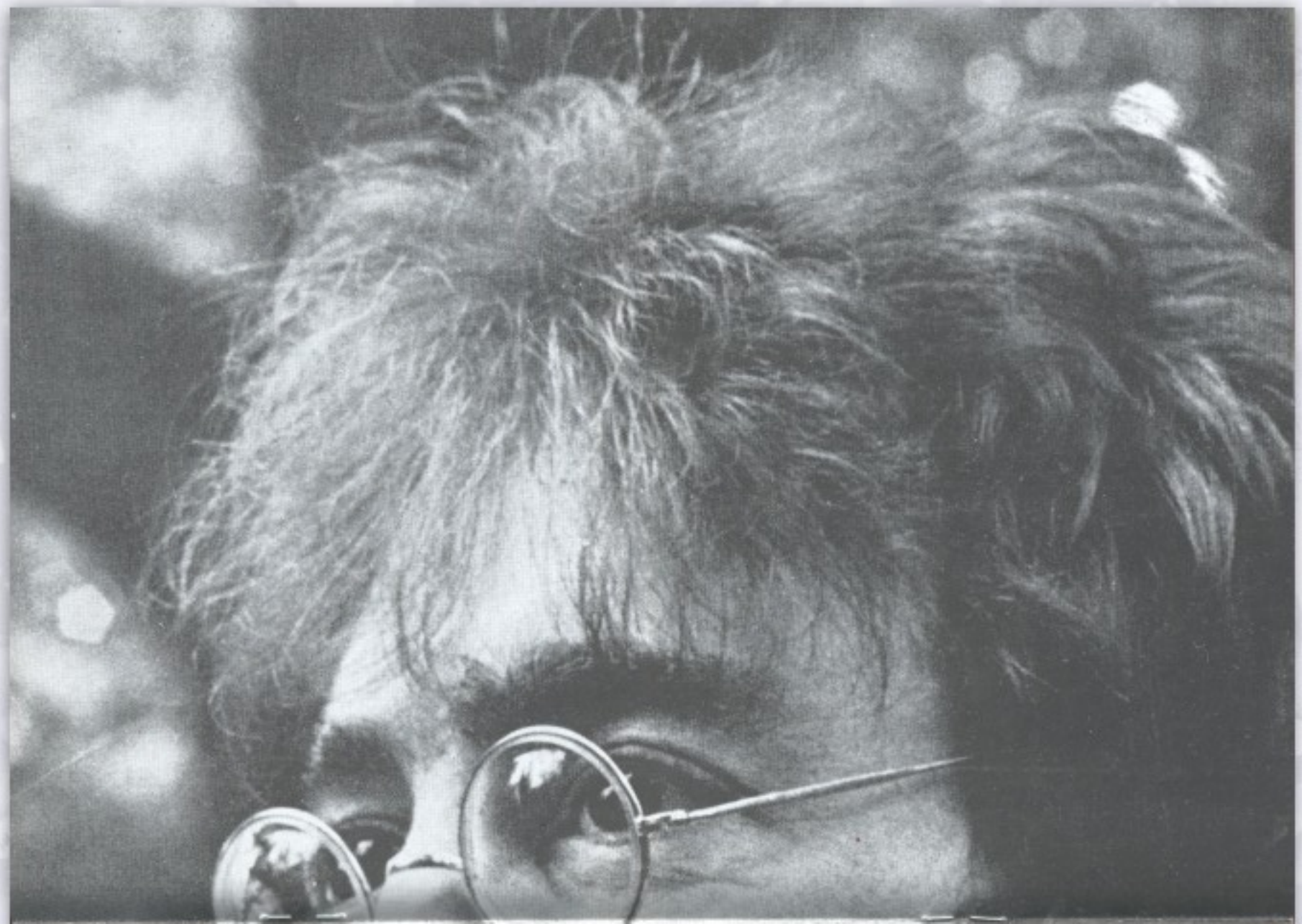
The next day we flew home to London and—surprise, surprise!—to a beautiful sunny afternoon with clear skies. It had been a tiring but very rewarding fortnight and we'd met a lot of great new friends.

NEXT MONTH IN THE MARCH ISSUE: ALL ABOUT GEORGE'S MUSIC FOR THE FILM "WONDERWALL" INCLUDING A REPORT FROM INDIA BY NEIL.

BELOW: Ringo and Maureen talking to the film's casting director Francesco Cinieri.

ABOVE: Ringo with Rudolpho, his chauffeur whilst he was in Rome.

BELOW: John with Spencer Davis at the MMT preview.



LETTERS from Beatle PEOPLE

WINNER OF FREE SUBSCRIPTION

Dear Johnny,

Being one of the few people who were fortunate enough to receive an invitation from the Beatles to attend a private screening of the film, "Magical Mystery Tour," in London before it was on general release, I am appalled and greatly disappointed by the seemingly huge amount of criticism which has followed the showing of this film on B.B.C. 1. Television. To make things worse, a newspaper article appeared several days after the first screening in which Paul reputedly admitted that the film was a flop whereas he should have proudly defended it. The film was far from being a flop of even the slightest magnitude. One of the main reasons for its unjustified failure was the fact that television was the worst form of visual medium on which it could have been shown.

To see the film, as I have done, in its true aspect, it is necessary to see it on a larger screen and in the atmosphere of a larger audience rather than a small family grouping. The absence of two other very important elements reduced the appeal of the film immensely. Firstly, colour plays a very prominent part, and the quality of the photography coupled with the superb colour was entirely lost on the B.B.C. 1. showing. Secondly, and perhaps even more important the length of the film had been greatly reduced to fit the 50 minutes allotted by the B.B.C's Boxing day timetable and therefore the structural composition was greatly weakened.

In all fairness I think that, had most of the people who have levied this criticism, watched the film more closely and less seriously, it would have been enjoyed immensely and appreciated as it deserved to be.

Yours sincerely,
James B. Park,
Secretary for Scotland,
The Official Beatles Fan Club,
7 Union Street,
Stonehouse,
Lanarkshire,
Scotland.

P.S.—Many thanks to John and George for a marvellous afternoon in London.

Dear Paul,

Having just watched the David Frost Show I would just like to say that your not the cute one, but the CUTEST. I hung on to your every word, as did most of your other devoted fans, but I strongly disagree with you, I think Magical Mystery Tour was a fantastic success; it was a change, a change only the BEATLES could execute. As for the critics, who takes notice of them anyway? Most people go on their own judgement. If we were all allowed to air our views I'm sure you would find that the majority of the public appreciated your work of art.

I have only one criticism regarding the songs from the film, which are superb. "Flying" is not long enough; It should of had at least a whole side to itself because it is an outstanding number. It's one of the best records of 1967.

Lots of love for the future,
Cath Westbrook (Miss),
18 Limes Crescent,
Marske-by-sea,
Redcar,
Yorks.

Dear Johnny and Beatles,

I have just finished reading Jennifer Game's letter in B.B. 53 on her meeting with Mike. Flying around my head at the minute are millions of thoughts which I heartily wish I could tell you, but just cannot as I am too confused.

Having watched and enjoyed every minute of Magical Mystery Tour, I still cannot believe the critics could be so harsh. Although not quite up to the standard of Beatle doings such as records, at which they are well practised, the film was surely excellent as a first-time experiment. Anyway those doddering old critics should have asked a few Beatle People for *their* opinion!

But I am not such a fanatic that you brilliant people can do nothing wrong for me. I love your songs and all your music, but sometimes I have to listen hard before it is understood, then enjoyed; all of you have types of humour which your fans appreciate but sometimes we are scared by the thought that a quick-witted reply to some reporter will be the END! "H.D.N." and "Help" were adored and seen many times by people who had been known (SSH!) to hint of a dis-like for you previously. All the teenagers, who possibly can, follow the trends you set in clothes, language, music and everything. True fans respect and admire your chosen female companions for life. Beatles can do something which a fan of theirs may deplore in other people.

Why did I mention another letter at the beginning of this one? Because I only have one grievance as far as you are concerned; it is really only a disappointment and not your fault but my frame of mind. Oh Beatles—if only there *was* some magic around. So that all the millions of people, who want to, could meet you without you being aggravated and annoyed. If only each single person who so wished could meet the only

magic they believe in — Beatle Magic. I'm not normally romantically daft—honest! The trouble is, most of us had at least one way of meeting you which was a greatly treasured hope. Through your personal appearances and stage shows. A dream shattered now. For everything you have said is true: more people can see you and hear you through T.V., films, radio and records; and of course the marvellous discs and brilliant sounds cannot be reproduced on stage. Oh, magic please make a spell and let us all meet the Beatles again!

Ah well, thank-you-very-much (sorry) for coming closer in a great film, marvellous No. 1, out of this world E.P. and treasured Christmas record.

Happy 1968 to absolutely all,

Carol McKee (18),
Highfields,
55 Duchess Drive,
Newmarket,
Suffolk.

P.S.—Didn't mean to be snotty writing to you via a typewriter, but although my typing is not at all good at least it is readable. My handwriting is NOT!

Dear, Paul, John, George and Ringo,

I thought I just had to write and tell you how much I enjoyed and would like to praise you on your first ever T.V. film "Magical Mystery Tour", I think it was absolutely fantastic. My Aunt and Uncle, Mum and Dad didn't agree with me they thought it was trash and should never have been shown on T.V. at all but I argued with them and said that if they didn't like it why did they sit and watch it, and that anyway it was something new for you and not really for their age group at all; that I hope you make another like it in the near future.

I was also upset and shocked at what the T.V. critics had to say but never mind boys, hardly anyone agrees with them these days that half of them don't know what they are talking about most of the time.

I'm sure all us teenagers and fans of yours, and perhaps some of your older fans liked it.

I decided after I had seen the film that I should go down town this morning and buy the E.P. which I did, and have played over and over again 'till I know every note its just like everything else you do.

FANTASTIC, FABULOUS, MARVELLOUS, EXCELLENT, WAY-OUT and STUPENDOUS.

Lots and Lots of Love to All especially Paul. From a True, Sincere and faithful fan forever.

(Miss) Linda Prescott, age 18,
21 Hill Street,
St. Helens, Nr. Liverpool,
Lancs.

P.S.—I'm looking forward for another chance of watching "Magical Mystery Tour" again on B.B.C. 2. on the 5th January, this time I'll be able to sing along with you (at least that'll be a way of clearing the house and getting peace and quiet so I can watch and enjoy seeing you again).

P.P.S.—Congratulations on your No. 1 success with "Hello Goodbye" (which I bought when it was first released).

"ALL MY LOVING,
I HAVE SENT TO YOU.
ALL MY LOVING,
DARLINGS I'LL BE TRUE".

Dear Beatles,

Why is everyone saying what a huge flop the "Magical Mystery Tour" was? We, personally, thought it was a fantastic programme, and enjoyed every minute of it. It certainly needs a great deal of courage to break away from the old traditional type of Christmas programme where everyone sings carols and appears in traditional christmas settings. It is one programme which we will never forget, and we think of it more every time we listen to the "Magical Mystery Tour" E.P.'s which incidently, are also fantastic, and such a bargain! Please, Beatles, do not get discouraged by the reports which the critics wrote about the programme this was the type of programme which you wanted to make and you succeeded in doing so.

I know that we and. we are sure, the rest of your fans, enjoyed the programme, as your own personal ideas were put forward. Congratulations, Beatles, for giving us a unique programme!

Yours sincerely,

Ann and Marilyn McLean,
7 George Street,
Hucknall,
Nottingham.

P.S.—the fan-club record is even better than the previous ones THANK YOU.

by Billy Shepherd and Johnny Dean

Now the dust is settling after all the furore from the critics over "Magical Mystery Tour". So some of these acid-penned critics didn't dig, but the fact is that the weight of fans' opinions is well on the side of the Beatles . . . with special credit given for the way they really tried to do something different.

But the Beatles have always been criticised by one section or other of the community. Or just plain put down. Go back a couple of years, to February of 1966, when the big controversy was about good old George Harrison getting married to Patti Boyd, the knockers suggesting that this WAS the final straw and that the boys must lose a lot of fans.

We remember one letter sent in by a fan—a note that summed up the feelings of all Beatle people. The writer said that Beatle fans were always pleased to see their idols happy; that George's private life is quite apart from his Beatles' life; and that it was George Harrison who got married, not George Beatle.

Fair enough. And the way the boys have gone from strength to strength since then, despite all the rumour-mongers, shows that they do command a loyalty from fans which hardly anyone else can match.

Still, let's stick to February two years ago for a while. The Beatles, generally speaking, were getting over a holiday break. The Lennons and the Starrs had been away, while Paul was enjoying himself on the London club scene.

There was one session in a London club, the Scotch of St. James (then one of the big "in" places) where Stevie Wonder, then aged fifteen, did a late-night show. Paul, even then dwarfed by the man they called "Little Stevie", thoroughly enjoyed the show and explained how the Tamla scene was very much his favourite listening when he was at home. This show became one gigantic rave . . . Keith Moon on drums, Chris Farlowe and Charlie Foxx on vocals backing Stevie on "Up Tight", and Georgie Fame playing organ. Try to get that little lot together for a gig and it would cost a fortune. And that's not counting the assistance Paul gave with his hand-clapping!

What amused Paul during this particular month was that one of the pirate stations, Radio London, was being inundated with letters COMPLAINING about the number of cover versions coming out on the Beatles' then current LP. "Michelle" and "Girl" were the most covered tracks. Paul was amused simply because the boys themselves didn't mind a bit that so many other groups and singers found Beatle material so irresistible. Anyway, "Rubber Soul" was undisputably top of the LP charts, "Help" was still in the Top Ten in the same department—and, of course, the single was "We Can Work It Out", coupled with "Day Tripper".

TOO LIVELY

But Ringo was on a bit about the Top Ten of the day. And perhaps he had a reason for suggesting it wasn't too lively. The top ten names were Nancy Sinatra (with "Boots"), Crispian St. Peters, Overlanders, Rolling Stones, Cilla Black, Mindbenders, Herb Alpert, Spencer Davis, Len Barry and Sandie Shaw. As Ringo predicted, some of these have vanished from the scene. Mind you, there was nothing nasty in his criticism—he just made it clear that he really didn't think some of the hit-makers had any great lasting quality.

What was noticeable about the scene, at

An old pic of Paul taken during the filming of 'Help'

this time, was that certain artists felt it necessary to boost their own talents by open-mouthed bragging about their exploits. It was started by P. J. Proby, who was really in a class of his own when it came to personal trumpet-blowing. And Crispian St. Peters joined him . . . hailed as "just another pint-sized Proby".

The Beatles have never had to indulge in this sort of thing. When their "Magical Mystery Tour" was panned recently, they didn't cry out that THEY were right and everybody else was wrong. They simply accepted with dignity that it hadn't gone as planned, in terms of reaction, specially in the national papers. This is the hall-mark of big stars. Instead, though, a couple of years ago we even had the unedifying sight of the Truth complaining that the St. Louis Union's version of "Girl" was terrible . . . despite the fact that the Beatles original was clearly much better than any of them.

Another point: the Beatles have stuck together, as a foursome. Even today, people are trying to split them up. "AAAH, John's doing a solo film part" . . . "AAAH, Ringo's broken away on his own in movies". But it was more from the other groups that the changes came, and still come. John Steel left the Animals, this February of 1966, and eventually the whole group disintegrated, despite hit records and success.

NEW SINGLE

We ran into Ringo in Shaftesbury Avenue at the time when everybody was panicking about a new single from the Beatles. Ringo played it cool. He said: "Well, our habit is to wait until the very last moment and when we know we've GOT to do something about it, we get down to work. John and I are trying to think about ideas but we get together in the late afternoon and then the telly's on and so it all comes to nothing."

This was pretty much the routine until the Beatles all got together again. They took the month off, relaxed, prepared themselves for a hectic spell yet to come. George and Patti, meanwhile, were enjoying themselves on the beaches of Barbados on a honeymoon that was far from quiet. Photographers from the world's press followed them round and it says much for the Harrisons' patience that nobody was whacked or had a camera smashed for causing so much intrusion.

In America, despite the lack of activity in the Beatle recording studios, they found their own way out of trouble. As a follow-up to "Day Tripper", they released "Nowhere Man", backed with "Drive My Car" (both from "Rubber Soul") but not released on the Capitol release of the album.

BEATLE FILM

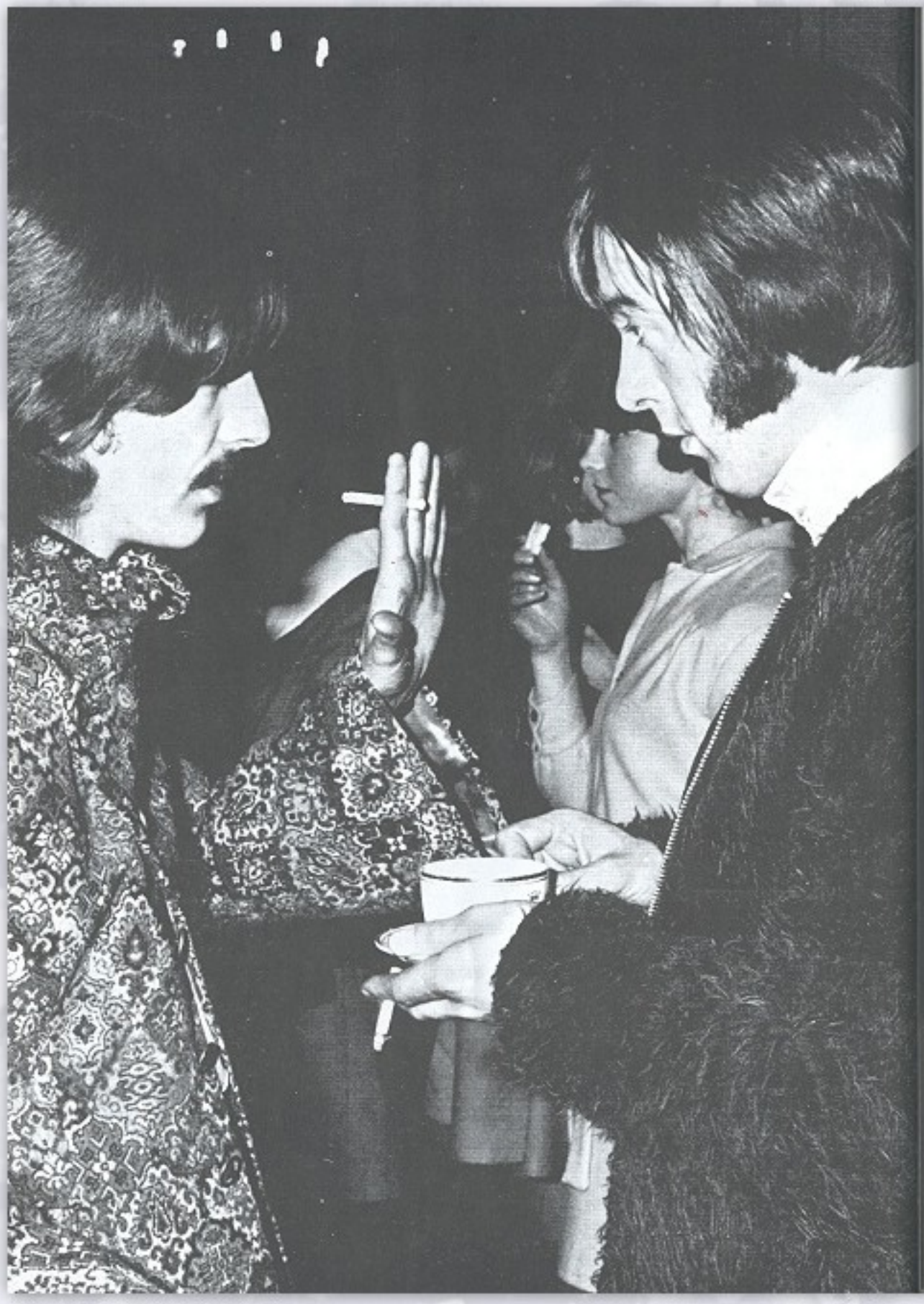
During February, 1966, a Beatle film was also in the news. On March 1, the BBC-TV people were to show the Beatle spectacular filmed at the massive Shea baseball stadium in America. We were invited to a special showing and were most impressed by the incredibly exciting performance by the boys of ten different songs.

What pleased the Beatles themselves a couple of years ago was a release by Mary Wells, long-time favourite girl singer of the boys. It was called "Love Songs To The Beatles" and featured "He Loves You", "All My Loving", "Please Please Me", "Do You Want To Know A Secret", "Can't Buy Me Love", "I Should Have Known Better", "Help", "Eight Days A Week", "And I Love Him", "Ticket To Ride", "Yesterday", "I Saw Him Standing There". By this time Mary had gone from the Tamla Motown label and found a new distinctive style. For the boys, this album was every bit as strong as the Keely Smith "Beatles Songbook" album which previously was a great favourite of theirs.

So, basically, February of 1966 was a rather slow month for the Beatles. Come to that, the February of 1967 was too. Come to that, so is this month. The Beatles have always tended to start off a New Year slowly, finding peak form around the early summer and generally ending with a big flourish towards the end of the year.

Still, George returned from his honeymoon to find quite a few new ideas lined up. And quite a few little surprises that none of the boys could have expected. More about that next month—so don't forget to meet up with us.

John signs for Sylvia Nightingale—Sussex Secretary at the MMT preview.



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1 **FAN CLUB NEWSLETTER**
2 **THE NEIL AND MAL FEATURES**
3 **BOB GIBSON'S BEATLE CARTOONS**
4 **LETTERS FROM BEATLE PEOPLE**
5 **BEHIND THE SPOTLIGHT by Billy Shepherd & Johnny Dean**
6 **BEATLE PEN PALS PAGES**
7 **BEATLE NEWS PAGE**
8 **BEATLES BOOK COMPETITIONS**
9 **PAGES OF NEW PHOTOGRAPHS**
10 **SONG OF THE MONTH Lyrics of a Beatles composition**
11 **PAGES OF OLD PHOTOGRAPHS Special "recap" pictures from the earlier Beatle days**
12 **COLOUR PHOTOGRAPHS which appear from time to time on our front cover and centre pages**
13 **AT HOME features**

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George chats with Spencer Davis at the MMT preview.

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BEATLE Pen Pals

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GEORGE WRITES FIRST FILM SCORE

On Sunday January 7 George flew to India, accompanied by Neil Aspinall and Alex Mardas, to continue work on music for the film "Wonderwall". George is composing, arranging and supervising the recording of his own full-length instrumental score for the film's soundtrack.

Parts of his "Wonderwall" music have strong Indian influence and to get an authentic atmosphere into his work George decided he'd spend a week or two in India.

Prior to his departure George supervised a series of concentrated "Wonderwall" sessions at the EMI and De Lane Lea recording studios in London. THE REMO FOUR, Liverpool friends of The Beatles and current backing group for BILLY J. KRAMER, have been involved as session musicians at some of George's marathon studio stints.

The other Beatles are not involved in the "Wonderwall" project but George becomes the second Beatle to undertake the writing of music for a film soundtrack. First was Paul who composed the score for "The Family Way". Neither George nor the other Beatles appear in "Wonderwall". NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE WILL INCLUDE A SPECIAL FEATURE DEVOTED TO GEORGE'S "WONDERWALL" MUSIC WITH A FULL REPORT BY NEIL ON THE VISIT TO INDIA.

ROLLS GOES TO STATES

John realised recently that it would be a good idea if he kept a car permanently in America so that it would be ready there for him to use whenever he decided to pop across the Atlantic for business or pleasure.

So, at the beginning of January his colourfully painted Rolls Royce was hauled aboard a ship and transported across the Atlantic to the U.S.A. where it will be kept in perfect running order awaiting his first visit.

CILLA'S GUEST

As you all know, the BBC has given Cilla Black her very own TV series which commenced on Tuesday, January 30th.

As you might have guessed, Cilla was very anxious to have one of her old Liverpool mates on her first show and Ringo was only too happy to oblige. On February 6th he will do a comedy sketch with Cilla and sing "Do You Like Me Just a Little Bit" as a duet with her. The song was suggested by Paul's father.

MORE BEATLE WINS

Valentine Awards for 1968, announced this month by DISC AND MUSIC ECHO, bring a further bundle of trophies to The Beatles. Poll voters put THE BEATLES top in the WORLD GROUP and BRITISH GROUP sections. "All You Need Is Love", "Hello, Goodbye" and the "Penny Lane"/"Strawberry Fields Forever" records gave John, Paul, George and Ringo three out of the first four places in the BEST 1967 BRITISH SINGLE section and two of the top three places in the WORLD'S BEST 1967 SINGLE section.

"Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band" came top in both British and World Best 1967 LP ALBUM sections.

The awards will be made on Wednesday, February 14.

AMERICAN L.P.

As you know, the songs from the Beatles' "MMT" were released on a full size LP in the States and the tracks were made up by five 1967 hits. As expected, a big demand has built up for the Stateside Beatles album in Britain so EMI actually imported 7,000 from America and sold them like hot cookies at 47/6d.—mainly in the London area. But there are still thousands of unsatisfied customers, so another 10,000 are on order. Buyers tell us that they think the Bob Gibson cartoon drawings of the tour look much better in the large size.

LEFT: A very rare pic of Paul and Mike McCartney, now of course Mike McGear of The Scaffold, pictured with their father in the garden of their Liverpool house in 1962.

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MAGICAL MYSTERY
TOUR

ABOVE: left to right Pat Manning, Area Secretary for Norfolk, George, Barbara Medhurst (Leicester) Friend and John at the MMT preview.
LEFT: Beatle signatures were in big demand on MMT E.P. covers.

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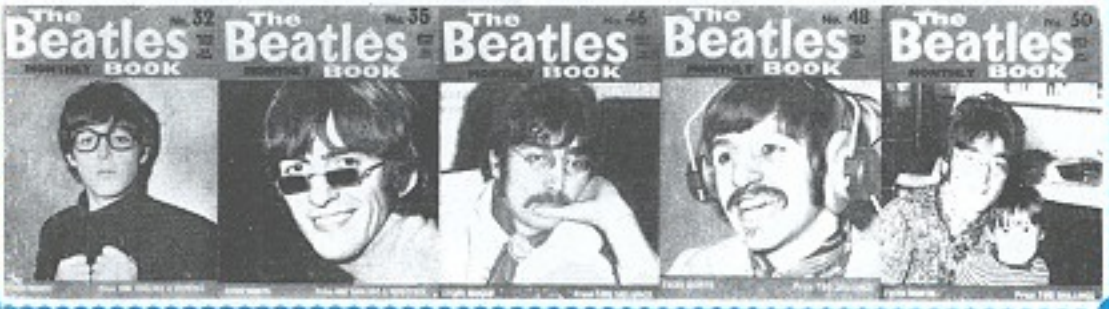

The Beatles BOOK

No. 55

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